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From the Portsmouth Journal

The following is supposed to be written by a gentleman who met a Miss Berry in a small town in the interior of New-York, last summer, and was very much pleased with her. As his intentions became very pointed, they were slightly repulsed; and being called away by business, just then, he did not prosecute the acquaintance further at that time. In the fall, he employed his first leisure moment in visiting the town where she resided, with the intention of offering his hand and heart, but arrived just in time to witness the nuptials of Miss Berry and Mr. Eaton. Not being dangerously deep in love, he chose to laugh the matter off; and the next morning sent the bride the following:

EPITHALAMUM.

As I passed by a hedge, one day,
A luscious and rich looking berry
Attracted my gaze that way;
'Twas as ripe and as red as a cherry!

How it nodded and danced on the bough,
As the soft morning zephyr blew by it!
"Are you sweet as you look to be now?"
Said I, and I thought I would try it.

I made demonstrations to climb,
But scratched myself, much to my sorrow;
And said I, "I'm in haste at this time,
And you'll do quite as well on the morrow."

Then I hurried along on my track,
But that berry my bosom still haunted;
And often I turned to look back
To the bush where it nodded and flouted.

I saw it that night in my dreams;
And so laughing it looked, and so merry,
I vowed, with the morning's first beams,
To go back and secure the berry.

And so with Aurora's first blush,
I traced back the path, so well beaten;
But alas! when I came to the bush,
I found that my berry was Eaton.

MOBAL—BY WILLIAM KESSEY.

Let this a warning to all
Who are thinking of love and of matching!
Climb! climb! never think of a fall—
Flinch not, though you get a slight scratching.
What might be as well done to-day,
O, never put off till to-morrow!
You may chance, from that trifling delay,
To reap a full harvest of sorrow.

DICK TRYSAIL'S SOLITARY CRUISE.

It was a cold, dark, and stormy night, off the Cape of Good Hope. The fine ship Chevalier was lying to like a duck, under a close-reefed main-top sail. The captain was turned in, and waiting with all the patience of a philosopher for the gale to subside. The officer of the watch had stowed himself away snugly in the storeroom, having told the man whose regular tick it was at the wheel, to give him a call if the wind lulled, or if there was any appearance of a change of the weather—and a part of the hardy crew who had the watch on deck were nicely, coiled away under the weather bulwark, on the quarter deck, humming a tune, or listening to the rush of waves or the howling of the winds, or apostrophizing, in no very gentle language, the weather.

"Come," said Bill Jones, "this is dull music, as the fiddler said to the rattlesnake, when he, the rattlesnake, not the fiddler, was gently wagging his tail. Dick Trysail, you promised us a week ago at least, to tell us a long yarn, which would astonish us. I love to be astonished, and there is no time better than the present. We shan't be called upon to reef topsails this watch, at any rate. So heave ahead, old fellow."

"What did I promise to tell you about," growled Dick Trysail.

"Oh, something about having been lost overboard once on a voyage to South America," said Bill.

"Ah, I recollect now," replied Dick; "and shipmates, if you would like to hear my story, I have no objection to tell it to you but I'm afraid you'll call it no great shakes after all; although I really believe that if some chap had the telling of it, they would set it off as really to astonish you. I've no knack at embellishing, you know, and shall only make simple statement of facts, as they actually occurred. What I am going to tell you, is every word true."

"I'll be the first time then that you stuck to truth," said Tom Bralley.

The watch, one and all, declared that they should be delighted, if not astonished, to hear Dick Trysail's story, and crawled as near to the tough old Triton as possible, who after replenishing his mouth with something less than a fathom of pigtail, proceeded as follows:

"Well," said Dick, "I have no objection to spinning you a yarn to pass away the time, if

you think it is worth while. It was a right curious adventure, and I was within the interest of the world, of losing the number of my mess. But sailors are always liable to accidents, and should be astonished at nothing which happens to them. I wish you to take notice before I begin, that my story is not made up for the occasion, but is every word true. Mind that.

Well, you see somewhere about three or four years ago, I don't mind the time exactly I was one of the crew of the ship Durindarte, of Boston, Capt. Ainsworth, bound on a voyage to Maranhiam. We had a fine run from Boston, until we got into the trades—had a good captain, officers and crew, and everything on board went quietly and shipshape. It is a fact that I was never so happily situated in my life and I could not but think it a little hard that I should be discharged from her without a moment's notice, in the midst of the wide ocean. To be put ashore on Robinson Crusoe's Islands, would be nothing to it—for there you would have land under your feet, and although I like a good ship at sea, better than a house on shore, which may take fire suddenly, or be blown down about your ears, some night when you are taking a comfortable snooze, yet it is no joke to find yourself, naked as it were, and alone on the blue water, without a ship, or even a boat on which to rest your foot. Salt water is a good thing, but I do not like to much even of a good thing.

"Come, Dick," muttered Tom Bralley 'no moralizing—anything but that. If you are going to give us a yarn, give it to us straight, without kinks in it."

"If that is your idea," resumed Jack, "I'll steer small, and make a straight wake—this yawning about is bad business, I do believe. Well, as I was saying, one afternoon, while on board the Durindarte, we were running along to the southward with light breezes & squally from the northeast, and a smooth sea. We were not far from the line, and at twelve o'clock, I heard the captain say, "we are just twenty miles north of St. Paul's."

About sunset, a pretty heavy squall struck the ship, the royals and top-gallant sails were taken in, but the wind soon lulled, and it began to rain right merrily. I was standing on the lee side of the fore-castle, looking over the bow, when all at once I saw a dolphin, swimming quietly along on the top of the water, looking as saucy as you please, as if he was muttering to himself, "catch me if you can." 'Twas a tempting object to gaze at, we had no fresh grub, of course, since we left port, and I longed to have him in the coppers forming the keel and upper works of a chowder for all hands. I ran to the long boat and got hold of the graine, and was out on the bowsprit and down on the martingale stay, before you could say, "belay that." The dolphin, very foolishly, as I thought, came composedly along, wagging his tail, and passed almost directly under the bowsprit, when I let drive the graine at him with all my force, and missed him! The fish started off being sadly frightened and I, not having taken the precaution to take a turn with the rope which was fastened to the graine, lost my balance, fell forward, turned, a complete somersault and landed slap in the water!

I was not a little astonished at my mishap—it was so unexpected—but nevertheless bellowed out lustily. The ship passed over me, but as soon as I came up astern, I began to blow like a grampus, and hailed the ship man-fashion. It happened unfortunately for poor Piggarlic, that at that moment the squall was more violent than ever—but through the rain which fell as if old ocean was about to be inundated, I could see a mighty confusion on board the ship. Bill Rogers was standing on the fore-castle at the time, and must have seen my tumbling after the dolphin—besides they must have heard me sing out when I found myself overboard and ears in the "briny element" as they call it. A hen coop was tossed overboard—and the old Durindarte was hoisted to for the last thing I saw of her, her main-top sails was to the mast. But she had a good deal of head-way at the time—and the squall continuing, and night coming on, I soon lost sight of her. I have heard since that they lowered a boat, and pulled off in the direction in which they supposed I was—for Captain Ainsworth was a man who would never forsake a poor sailor in distress—but they must have made a bad calculation—and hit wide of the mark, for I neither saw nor hear of them at the time.

As soon as I found out how matters stood, I struck out towards the ship, and was not long in reaching the hen-coop, to which I clung with just as much affection, as misfortune clings to an old tar. I did not bear any misfortune in a gale of wind. But I might as well have saved my breath, for nobody heard me—and after waiting about half an hour until it was quite dark, I began to think I had got into an ugly scrape, and would have given all my old growl nervous and fidgety—and evidently found his situation rather an unpleasant one. Finally, in his flurry, he made a desperate leap out of the water—and with the jerk, the graine drew out, and off he went, without so much as saying good-bye, leaving me alone on the wide ocean. He evidently did not like my company

with poor Dick. The clouds soon broke away the stars came out and shone like diamonds—but the Durindarte was not in sight. Nevertheless, I soon consoled myself with the idea that my fate might have been much worse I crawled up on the hen-coop, and took my seat on it a cherel, as the French say, which means a horseback—and I still had possession of the graine—for I never let go the rope which was bent to it, and which I clutched with a desperate eagerness as I fell in the water. After turning over the subject in my mind for an hour or two, I came to the conclusion that although my situation was not so bad as it might be, there was room for a good deal of improvement—yet I resolved to keep a stiff upper lip, and not to give up as long as there was a shot in the locker.

I found the craft in which I was embarked, rather crank, more than once in the night, when I was nodding, it capsized and plunged me over head and ears in the water, which was warm enough, I confess, but not quite so fresh as I could have wished. In the morning when the sun rose above the horizon, I took a squint around, but nothing could I see but blue water and the blue sky—neither the Durindarte, nor any other vessel was in sight. I was completely left in the lurch, and began to feel quite uncomfortable and lonely. Time passed away, and I amused myself by calculating on the chances of being picked up—but as few vessels passed that meridian in the course of the year, I soon came to the conclusion that the chances were rather against me. I looked hard to the westward for the island of St. Paul's—but no island could I see. I began to feel hungry too, and would gladly have snapped at a morsel of the old mahogany junk, which I had turned up my nose at only the day before, pronouncing it desperate hard living.

On the second day after I had thus left a good ship, without expecting to better my condition, however, my heart was gladdened at the sight of a dolphin, swimming up towards my hen-coop, as if desirous of knowing what curious thing was thus floating about in those latitudes. My good fellow, said I, 'your visit is well-timed, but we must be better acquainted before we part, as Commodore Downes said to the Malay pirates at Quillo Battoo.' I seized my graine, and buried the five prongs in him, just abast the fore shoulder, and then hauled him on board. I made a delicious meal off of him without much ado—not waiting for the ceremony of cooking, which, after all, is not of much consequence—being a mere habit, and sometimes a troublesome one into the bargain. I felt better after I had devoured about a couple of pounds of the dolphin—and if I could have got hold of a piece of fresh tobacco, should have felt in fine spirits. I did not suffer much from thirst, as there were frequent rain showers, and when my shirt got well soaked, I contrived to squeeze some water into my mouth. The wind continued light from the eastward—and fortunately for me there was a smooth sea—so that I occasionally got a nap with my legs dangling in the water.

On the third day after I fell overboard, while regalling myself with a piece of the dolphin which I had saved—after throwing into the sea some of the bones, I felt some thing strike against my starboard walking stick, which hung overboard—and on casting my eyes in the water, I saw within arm's length, a huge monster of a shark, who was very busy grabbing the pieces of dolphin which I had thrown overboard! I felt under great obligations to him for not snapping off one of my walking sticks at once—but was convinced that as soon as he had swallowed the fragments of dolphin, he would pay his respects to Dick Trysail without further ceremony. I accordingly resolved to be before hand with him—and after the rascal had finished his meal, and was eyeing me with a wicked look, as if his mouth watered at the idea of cracking my bones, I thrust the graine with all the strength I was master of into his back. The prongs passed through the tough skin, but were not to be drawn out so easily.

I never saw a beast so astonished as that shark was, when he received my cordial greeting. He was about twelve feet long and immensely strong. He started off upon the full run, but was soon brought up by the tough piece of rattan stuff, eight or ten fathoms long, which was attached to the graine, and the end of which I had taken care to fasten to the hen-coop. He then tried to go down, and see if he could not get with better treatment below—and I dragged the hen-coop, to which I clung, several feet under water. But he soon got tired of that game—and rose again to the surface. He then went round and round several times, to my great dissatisfaction—and I was about to cut the rope and let him go, graine all, when he took a fancy to swim off in a direction about due west—dragging the coop and myself after him at the rate of three or four knots! I knew he could not hold out long at such play—at the end of half an hour, I found that he began to grow nervous and fidgety—and evidently found his situation rather an unpleasant one. Finally, in his flurry, he made a desperate leap out of the water—and with the jerk, the graine drew out, and off he went, without so much as saying good-bye, leaving me alone on the wide ocean. He evidently did not like my company

—and to tell the truth, I was not sorry to get rid of him. There was no love lost between us, any how.

On the morning of the fourth day of my solitary cruise, soon after day break, as I was eagerly looking around to see if any vessel was in sight, for I began to grow impatient, and as hungry as the shark whom I had treated so unkindly—having no salt, the dolphin was not then quite such a savory food as could be wished—I thought I spied a dark looking object floating on the water, and not more than a cable's length distance. My heart beat quicker. Can it be a boat? whispered I to myself. No—it was too small for a boat. What can it be? as the day advanced, and darkness cleared up. I found it was a huge loggerhead turtle, fast asleep on the surface of the water. He must have been six or eight feet in length, and probably weighed five or six hundred pounds. I no sooner saw him than I felt that Providence had not altogether forsaken poor Dick. I determined that the turtle, or Scrambling Jack, as I afterwards called him, should take me in tow.

He tried to make a plunge—and if I had not been aware of the kind of capers which these stupid animals cut on such occasions. I should have been in a sad fix, and glad enough to mount my hen-coop again. But I knew the nature of the beast, having once belonged to a turtle sloop, owned in New Providence—and as the old fellow was about to dive, I caught hold of his hind flippers, and bearing my whole weight upon them, and paddling with all his might at the same time, he could not for the soul of him get his head, much less his large body, under water—but off he went, at the rate of five or six knots, dragging me after him!

I managed to steer him indifferently well, by pushing one flipper and pulling the other—and shaped the course due west, as near as I could judge from the bearing of the sun. I passed the rope around my body beneath the armpits—lest at any moment, overcome with fatigue, I might let go my hold—and I soon found great advantage in so doing—for Scrambling Jack, after two or three fruitless attempts to get rid of his companion, swam quietly and rapidly along on the top of the water, without trying to dive below. Once, indeed as I was off my guard, and perhaps nodding—having had but precious little sleep for the previous four nights, he took an unfair advantage, and down we went!—Before I knew what the rascal was about, we were both of us eight or ten feet under water! But I soon brought him up the surface again, and was more careful afterwards.

Scrambling Jack clawed off at a fine rate—but before many hours, I was tired enough of clinging to him, and steering him in the right direction. He was something like a pig in his disposition, and wanted to go every way but the way I had determined that he should go. By four o'clock in the afternoon I was nearly ready to give up; for besides the trouble of keeping him in the right track, this being dragged through the water at such a rate is by no means so pleasant an operation as one would be likely at first to imagine. I bitterly regretted having left my hen-coop, and began to calculate how much longer I could hold out, when my heart was gladdened with the sight of an object on the horizon bow, which at first I took to be a vessel—but as we approached it, I soon found it to my unspeakable satisfaction, that it was land—the island of St. Paul's! And never was the sight of land more welcome to the tempest-tost mariner after a six months passage from India, than it was to mine at that moment.

My only fear was that scrambling Jack would give out; he began to breathe hard. I did him injustice, for he was bottom to the back bone, and did not relax in his exertions until about six o'clock in the evening, he carried me safe and sound alongside of a jutting rock on the island. The sea was smooth, and there was little or no surf. I stepped ashore without difficulty—having first taken the liberty to make a rope fast to one of my companions' fins—for I was not yet quite prepared to part company with him. I made fast the other end to a large rock, and then, completely overcome with weariness, with hunger, and with joy at the unexpected termination of my sufferings, I threw myself flat on the rock, and blubbered aloud, like a sea sick cabin boy.

I did not remain long in that situation—but soon arose and clambered up on the rocks, to see if I could find any thing which would do to eat—and I was not long at a loss, for the island was almost covered with birds—there were boobies, noddies, gulls, man-of-war birds, &c. in abundance. I soon caught one, and twisted his neck, and made a hearty supper—and as I was rather thirsty, I crawled up on to a high part of the island, out of the reach of the spray, where I found some tolerable good fresh water in the hollows of the rocks. I then laid down, and soon fell a sleep—nor did I awake until the sun had risen above the horizon.

I looked around for a sail—but none was in sight. I then went to work to secure Scrambling Jack—for I would not have lost him for his weight in gold. I found him safe enough—and built a sort of pen with fragments of rock, into which, with considerable difficulty, I managed to put my useful friend and shipmate. I found

plenty of eggs on the island, and I could knock over as many birds as I wanted any day—with my graine I could catch some excellent fish, which sported in abundance alongside the rocks. I found salt in great plenty, made by the heat of the sun. The worst of it was, I could not strike a fire. I had heard tell of Indians and other savage folks getting fire by rubbing together two dry sticks. I found some dry wood on the island, but whether it had been too long soaked in salt water, or that I had not the knack of it, I know not, but I rubbed till I was tired and the wood was hot—but not a spark of fire could I get—or even a symptom of smoke. But by salting my fish and birds, and broiling them in the hot sun—and the sun shone hot and heavy on that island, I'll tell ye, my lads—I got along very well; I had enough such as it was, and was a thousands times better off than when riding horseback on the hen-coop.

Every morning early, I went up to the highest point of the island, and searched along the horizon for vessels—but it is not often the case that vessels pass within sight of St. Paul's. I had been on the island like a second Robinson Crusoe, for about six weeks, when one morning I beheld far in the northeast a ship steering to the southward under a crowd of sail. The wind was light, and she was not going along at the rate of more than two or three knots an hour, but I feared she would not pass quite so near the island as I could wish. Nevertheless, I bent the few garments which I had, to a pole that I found among the rocks, and stuck it up on the highest pinnacle of the island. But my signal was not seen from the ship—she kept on her course, passing within eight or nine miles, without heaving to, or lowering a boat. I could not bear the idea of remaining for six weeks, or perhaps, months, longer on that desolate spot, and thought that I ought to risk something to get on board the ship.

My plan was formed in a moment. I doused my flag, hastened down to the seaside, roused out my old friend Scrambling Jack, got him fairly into the Atlantic ocean, caught hold of his hind flippers and off we went! I knew that unless he had grown lazy by leading an inactive life on shore, and good living, for I gave him plenty of prog, he would overhaul the galle before night, unless the wind freshened—and if it did, I should have to make the best of my way back to my island again. Every thing fully answered my expectations—the wind did not freshen, and Scrambling Jack scrambled faster than ever, and when it was about four o'clock, I was almost within hail of the ship.

At this moment, I thought I perceived some commotion on board. There was a running about the decks—and soon I saw the Captain standing on the taffrail with a musket in his hand, one of his officers along side of him with a harpoon, and several of the crew with boarding pikes. I afterwards learnt that this was owing to a man aloft having sung out "Sea-serpent, ho! right astern, coming up with its hand over board." I thought this was a most inhospitable reception, after having gone through dangers and sufferings which do not fall to the lot of every one—and as soon as I got within hail, seeing the Captain about to bring his musket to present, I shouted out as loud as I could roar, and my lungs were always pretty good, "Ship ahoy!"

The Captain was astonished—and as we were close upon the equinoctial line, many of the crew believed that Old Neptune himself was really coming on board, or at the least had sent an ambassador to see that all was right. And indeed our appearance was rather out of the common way. First came Scrambling Jack himself, claving away at a great rate, evidently with a design to come along side—and the just behind him was seen the head of poor Dick Trysail! I had lost my cap when I fell overboard from the Durindarte, and no two hairs on my head were standing in the same direction. My beard had not been sheaved for seven weeks and my face, never of the handsomest, was now as brown as a berry.

The Captain hardly knew what to make of our appearance, and I hailed again, "Ship ahoy!"

"Hallo!" shouted the Captain in a trembling voice.

"Stand by with a rope—I am coming along side."

"Who are you, and what do you want?"

screamed the Captain, half frightened to death, "If you come alongside I'll shoot you. Stand by, boys," said he to his crew.

The matter was now growing serious. "And is this the way," shouted I, "that you receive a poor fellow you fall in with in the midst of the wide ocean, and who has been living among sharks, and dolphins, and turtles, and other wild beasts, until he is tired? For shame! give us a rope, and when I come on board, you will have one real Yankee sailor on board at any rate."

By this time the Captain was pretty well convinced that I was neither fish nor reptile, nor old Neptune himself, but a real Christian being, although he could not imagine how I came adrift in those latitudes. The ship was luffed up to the wind, and a rope was thrown overboard. I quitted my hold of my old friend, and down he went without stopping to say fare-

well. I sighed as he disappeared, for he had

manuscript and to copy it if he choose. It was a matter of notoriety and interest to all who were

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recent election shows what the people think of their labors. A few more such committees, and similar arbitrary investigation, would be of great service to the Democracy. [Arg

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